



NEWS RELEASE

**Massachusetts District Office
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222
Phone: 617-565-5590**

**Contact: Joan M. Trudell
Public Information Officer
Phone: 617-565-5572
joan.trudell@sba.gov
Fax: 617-565-5597**

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HOMEBASED BUSINESSWOMEN'S NETWORK'S PRESIDENT ELAINE ABRAMO WINS SBA NEW ENGLAND AND MASSACHUSETTS AWARD

BOSTON – Elaine Abramo, president and program coordinator of Salem-based Homebased Businesswomen's Network, Inc., has been named the 2004 New England and Massachusetts Home-Based Business Champion by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) according to an announcement made by Mark S. Hayward, Acting Massachusetts SBA District Director.

The Home-Based Business Champion Award is presented annually to an individual who has experienced the rewards and difficulties of home-based businesses and has worked to improve the climate for these businesses. Evaluation criteria for this award include: engaging in entrepreneurial training, policy development efforts, or financial or business planning specifically tailored for home-based businesses; and measurable accomplishments in advancing home-based businesses, such as adoption of public policy or expansion of a program.

"The SBA champion awards honor the best small business has to offer, and Elaine Abramo is an outstanding choice," said SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey Butland. "This is an outstanding testimonial, not only to her accomplishments, but to her commitment and dedication to small business success and community service as well. I join my SBA colleagues in congratulating Elaine on this significant achievement."

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The Homebased Business Network, Inc., founded in 1981, was established to promote a positive image of women with home-based businesses and to provide opportunities for the exchange of resources, information and support. Elaine Abramo has been an HBN member for 17 years and has served in many positions including president for the past two years.

“Elaine Abramo’s dedication to home-based women business owners is evident given the strength of the organization,” said Mark S. Hayward, Acting Massachusetts SBA District Director. “Her leadership has helped innumerable women work through their own dreams of owning and growing a home-based small business.”

Abramo will be honored at an awards breakfast at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on June 10, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. The Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, Larry O’Toole, president of Somerville-based Gentle Giant Moving Company, Inc., will also be honored along with nine other small businesses and champions from throughout the state. The event is open to the public and those interested in attending should contact Christine Carter at SBA at 617-565-5560.

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